

September 8, 1989
R-6570-YYB-2357

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Subject: Incident Report at the 10-71 Building August 30, 1989

On August 30, 1989 at approximately 9:00 a.m. personnel from the 10-71 Building commenced with their monthly evacuation drill from the building. Gary Gordon from the City of Renton Fire Department was on the scene to witness the drill.

At approximately 9:08 the Command Post was informed that there was an overhead acid leak in the Surface Prep Lab of the 10-71 Building. The leak originated in the fiberglass ventilation system and a quick acid test showed a pH of 3. Gary Gordon immediately contacted the City of Renton Hazmat Team. The evacuation of the building was completed and a sweep, done by Boeing firemen in SCBA's and bunker gear.

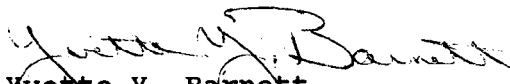
By approximately 9:15 a.m. both City of Renton and Boeing Hazmat members were on the scene. The decision was made by the City of Renton Incident Commander, Chief Jack McLaughlin, to keep the building evacuated until further notice. Upon questioning the Boeing Chemist from Quality Control the Incident Commander determined that since the room contained a number of different acids the the worst case acid would be suspected, which was hydrofluoric acid.

Renton City and Boeing Hazmat members suited up in Level "A" protective clothing with air packs and entered the building at approximately 11:00 a.m.. The entry team's main objectives were to: 1) locate the spill; 2) collect samples of the material; 3) patch fiberglass duct using plug and patch; 4) neutralize the area; 5) and decontaminate.

The team located the area by approximately 11:07 a.m. and patched the duct from where the leak originated. By 11:30 a.m. the entry team had exited the facility and Quality Control was analyzing the sample. The analysis showed the existence of Sulfuric, Nitric, Chromic and Hydrofluoric acid. All objectives had been met. The Incident Commander felt that the building could be re-occupied with the exception of the Surface Prep Lab and the Plating Shop. The building was turned back over to Boeing at approximately 11:41 a.m.

In a follow-up meeting with Boeing Hazmat members and their support staff the feeling overall was that the incident was handled extremely well. There was questions about the necessity of keeping the occupants out of the building for almost thr hours which will be discussed with the City of Renton. Also, the support personnel, i.e. Safety and Industrial Hygiene, want to be included in all decisions affecting the safety of any Boeing personnel. The City was informed of this and will do so in the future.

The City of Renton at a later meeting stated that if they had been aware that the ventilation system did not go into any other area they might have allowed the occupants to re-enter the building earlier. Gary Gordon proceeded to say, though, that each incident was reviewed individually and that under similar circumstances the same course of action might be done. He felt that the time was very short, particularly since it was the first time that the two teams had actually worked together. In situations with other Boeing Divisions the first time they had worked together the incident took over four hours. Gary Gordon had nothing but praise for our team and our efforts.


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Enclosures: City of Renton Report
Boeing Fire Department Report
Time Frame